

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 30570 191920Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 USPS-01 IO-10

/084 W

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R 191910Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5308

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: THE PTT SITUATION

1. SUMMARY. PTT WORKERS WHO RESUMED WORK AFTER RECENT STRIKE WITH FEELINGS OF DEFEAT ARE REFUSING TO RESUME PRESTRIKE PACE OF WORK. AS A RESULT 19 MILLION PIECES OF ACCUMULATED MAIL REMAINS UNSORTED AND CURRENT MAIL IS PROCESSED LESS EXPEDITIOUSLY THAN BEFORE STRIKE. PTT NEW TACTICS MAY BE MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN OUTRIGHT STRIKE IN GETTING ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL THEY HAVE BEEN REQUESTING. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 30570 191920Z

2. THE GOF RESTRAINT IN CLAIMING VICTORY WHEN THE PTT

STRIKE COLLAPSED ON 2 DECEMBER IS BECOMING EVEN MORE JUSTIFIED WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME. END OF STRIKE DID NOT SIGNAL A NEW BEGINNING AS IS USUALLY THE CASE WHEN STRIKE SETTLEMENTS COME THROUGH A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT AT THE BARGAINING TABLE. INSTEAD PTT STRIKERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN SORTING OFFICES, RESUMED WORK WITH BITTER FEELINGS AND OVERWHELMING DESIRE FOR REVENGE. LEAVING ASIDE THE QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY OF UNION LEADERS AS WELL AS GOF IN FAILING TO PUT ACROSS TO PTT WORKERS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BENEFITS ALREADY CONCEDED BY GOF, THE FACT REMAINS THAT STRIKERS RETURNED TO WORK WITH A SENTIMENT OF DEFEAT.

3. ACCORDINGLY PTT SORTING PERSONNEL HAVE REFUSED TO RESUME THE PRE-STRIKE PACE OF WORK WHICH WAS AT THE ROOT OF THEIR REVOLT AND OF THEIR DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO LIGHTEN THE WORKLOAD. IN ADDITION, PTT EMPLOYEES ARE REFUSING TO HANDLE MAIL SORTED BY THE "PARALLEL" SERVICE ORGANIZED BY GOF IN COOPERATION WITH THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO EXPEDITE HANDLING OF BUSINESS LETTERS. AS A RESULT SOME 19 MILLION PIECES OF MAIL ACCUMULATED DURING THE STRIKE REMAIN UNSORTED AND CURRENT MAIL IS BEING HANDLED LESS EXPEDITIOUSLY THAN PRIOR TO STRIKE.

4. THE MEDIA HAVE ALREADY REPORTED ON THIS SITUATION AND PTT SECRETARY OF STATE LELONG HAS ADMITTED AS MUCH WHILE HOLDING OUT PROMISES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF MAIL DELIVERY IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.

5. ANOTHER CAUSE OF WORKER DISCONTENT IS 30 PERCENT DEDUCTION OF PAY FROM THE DECEMBER PAY CHECKS TO COMPENSATE FOR LOSS OF TIME BECAUSE OF STRIKE. INTERESTING TO NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT BECAUSE OF COMPUTERIZED PAYROLL SYSTEM STRIKERS WERE PAID IN FULL FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER ALTHOUGH THEY WERE ON STRIKE THE ENTIRE PERIOD. GOF OFFICIALS WERE RATHER RED FACED ABOUT THIS FAILURE TO CONTROL THE COMPUTER BECAUSE PROBABLY IT CAUSED ILLUSIONS AMONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 30570 191920Z

STRIKERS THAT PERHAPS THERE WILL BE NO DEDUCTIONS FOR STRIKE TIME.

6. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT SORTING EMPLOYEES HAVE A CASE. WORK LOAD HAS INCREASED IN THE LAST 10 YEARS BY OVER 50 PERCENT WHILE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES HAVE INCREASED BY LESS THAN 10 PERCENT. GOF HAS OBVIOUSLY MISCALCULATED THE PACE AT WHICH AUTOMATION

COULD BE INTRODUCED TO TAKE ON THE ADDITIONAL WORK-  
LOAD AND HAS THEREFORE DELAYED FOR TOO LONG THE  
HIRING OF THE REQUIRED ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL. THE  
SORTING EMPLOYEES NEW TACTICS OF SETTING THEIR OWN  
PACE OF WORK, WHICH MOST OBSERVERS AGREE IS NOT  
UNREASONABLE, MAY PROVE TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN  
THE STRIKE IN OBTAINING THE ADDITIONAL HIRES THEY  
HAVE BEEN DEMANDING.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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